AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.   (Currently amended) A magnetic bearing control device for controlling a magnetic bearing for supporting a rotor in a non-contact manner, said magnetic bearing control device comprising:

a digital processor which controls at least said magnetic bearing; and

a counter for accumulating and counting an actual work time of a designated managed component;

wherein said digital processor performs a comparison between the accumulated actual work time of the managed component counted by said counter and a preset maintenance time, and outputs a signal indicating start of maintenance operation of said managed component on the basis of the result of the comparison.

Claim 2.   (Original) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim 1, wherein said digital processor inhibits the activation of said magnetic bearing control device, after the accumulated actual work time of the managed component counted by said counter exceeds a preset limit time.

Claim 3.   (Original) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim 1, wherein said digital processor comprises a function of said counter.

Claim 4.   (Original) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim 2, wherein said digital processor comprises a function of said counter.

Claim 5.   (Original) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim 1 further

comprising:

a display portion for displaying a message or an image on the basis of said signal

indicating the start of maintenance operation outputted from the digital processor.

Claim 6.   (Original) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim 1 further

comprising:

a voice output portion for outputting a sound on the basis of said signal indicating the

start of maintenance operation outputted from the digital processor.

Claim 7.   (Currently amended) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim

1, further comprising:

a data input device which allows an a user to set said preset maintenance time.

Claim 8.   (Currently amended) The magnetic bearing control device according to claim

2, further comprising:

a data input device which allows an a user to set said preset maintenance time and

said present preset limit time.

Claim 9.   (New) A magnetic bearing controller comprising:

a processor that controls a magnetic bearing; and

a counter that accumulates and counts an actual work time of a managed component,

wherein said processor further compares the accumulated actual work time with a

preset maintenance time.

Claim 10.   (New) The controller of claim 9, wherein said processor outputs a

maintenance signal based upon said comparison. -

Claim 11.   (New) The controller of claim 10, wherein said processor outputs said

maintenance signal when said accumulated actual work time is greater than or equal to said

preset maintenance time.

Claim 12.   (New) The controller of claim 9, wherein said processor further compares the

accumulated actual work time with a preset limit time.

Claim 13.   (New) The controller of claim 12, wherein said processor inhibits activation of

said magnetic bearing based upon the comparison of said accumulated actual work time with

a preset limit time.

Claim 14.   (New) The controller of claim 13, wherein said processor inhibits activation

of said magnetic bearing when the accumulated actual work time is greater than or equal to

said preset limit time.

Claim 15.   (New) The controller of claim 9, further comprising a display that is

responsive to display a maintenance signal based upon said comparison.

Claim 16.   (New) The controller of claim 9, further comprising a notification device that

is responsive to display a maintenance signal based upon said comparison.

Claim 17.   (New) The controller of claim 9, further comprising a data input device

adapted to receive said preset maintenance time.

Claim 18.   (New) A method for controlling a magnetic bearing comprising:

        controlling said magnetic bearing using a processor;

        counting and accumulating an actual work time of a managed component using a

counter; and

        comparing said actual work time and a preset maintenance time using said processor.

Claim 19.   (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising outputting a maintenance

signal based upon said comparison.